



Marc Gomez takes the title of Mr. Aruba 2006

It was an exciting evening of bodybuilding competition at the Aruba Resort, Casino, and Spa on Sunday, September 10 conducted by the Aruba Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Association (APBA). A panel of judges were charged with selecting Mr. Aruba 2006, who will go on to represent the island at the International Federation of Body Builders (IFBB)- Central American and Caribbean Amateur Championships in Jamaica on September 28.

This year a new competition was added to the agenda, Mr. Aruba Beginners, and Darrel Leito took the title in the Short Class. Bruno Santos, winner of the Lightweight title in the regular competition also took the trophy in the Beginners Tall Class and was named overall winner and Mr. Aruba Beginners.

Hoots and hollers were heard from the audience as the contenders flexed their well defined muscles under the spotlights, something of a tradition for bodybuilding competitions, and the contenders count on to motivate them.

In the female divisions, the winners were Michell Portier for Miss Body Fitness and Sharine Ignacio for Ms. Aruba Body Building. Double trophy winners were Lindroy Henry taking the title for Master Class and first place in the Heavyweight division. The specialty title of Best Poser went to Oswaldo Yazagary, who also won the Middleweight title.

However, the big winner of the night was the Best Legs winner, Marc Gomez, who as number one Light Heavy weight winner was a contender for the overall title that he took to be named Mr. Aruba 2006. It was obviously a triumphant moment as he easily plucked his young son on to the stage to join him for a victory photograph with the Minister of Labor, Culture, and Sport Ramon Lee and President of the APBA Giovanni Arendsz. Also present for the evening and presenting trophies were the President of Aruba's Olympic Committee Leo Maduro and its Secretary Nicole Hoevertsz, who is a member of the International Olympic Committee, the governing body of the Olympics.

Before the climactic announcement of Mr. Aruba 2006, Guest Poser Alison Maria of Curacao gave a demonstration of the sort of body that makes one a contender in for Mr. Universe, and other internationally renowned competitions. These exciting and entertaining demonstrations not only take place on stage, but the guest posers graciously make their way through the audience allowing spectators to have their picture taken with some of the famous names of bodybuilding. Last year Big Luke Wood, Australia's number one bodybuilder traveled all the way from the land down under to grace the stage and make friends in Aruba. Meeting world famous bodybuilders is one of the exciting aspects of the Mr. Aruba competition is what fills the hall with spectators, as it did this past weekend.

Congratulations to all the winners, and good luck to Marc Gomez in Jamaica at the end of the month!